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P. J. [signature]

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 70177

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : BUHL et al.  
Serial No :  
Confirm. No. :  
Filed :  
For : AXLE SUSPENSION...  
Art Unit :  
Examiner :  
Dated : July 27, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attached please find Form PTO-1449 together with the references as stated in the specification.

- US 3,406,983 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A" for claims 1-4 & 8, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

- US 5,203,585 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A" for claims 1-3, 5 & 8, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

- US 2,607,617 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A" for claims 1, 4 & 6, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

- US 4,034,996 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A" for claims 1, 4 & 6, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

- US 4,007,924 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A", as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

- WO 99/58354 cited in the corresponding German application examination and in the international search report as follows: Category "X" for claims 1 & 6, as a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone. Category "Y" for claims 2, 5, 8 & 9, as a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. Category "A" for claims 4 & 7, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance. This patent describes an axle suspension for rigid vehicles to guide the wheels at both ends of the axle at the same height utilizing a torsional four link member. No translation is available at this time.

- WO 95/28294 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A" for claims 3 & 6, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance. Category "Y" for claims 1, 2, 5, 8 & 9, as a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the

document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

- EP 0 949 093 A2 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "Y" for claims 1, 2, 5, 8 & 9, as a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. This patent describes a rigid axle suspension for a vehicle with a four point stabilize connecting rod system to take longitudinal and side forces and to stabilize against wavering. No translation is available at this time.

- DE 195 21 874 A1 referenced on page 2 of the specification and cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A" for claim 4, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance. Category "E" for claim 1, as an earlier document but published on or after the international filing date. Category "Y" for claim 1, as a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. This patent describes an axle suspension for rigid axles in vehicles incorporating individual link members and a multiple rod member for lateral and torsional stabilization of the vehicle with respect to the axle. No translation is available at this time.

- DE 43 38 651 A1 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "Y" for claim 1, as a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to

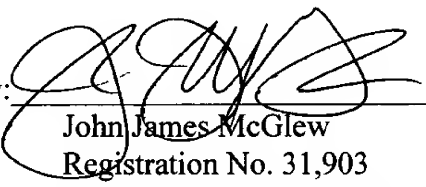
involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. This patent describes a suspension for rigid axles with an axle beam and a pair of trailing and semi trailing arms above one another and each pivotably connected to the vehicle superstructure. No translation is available at this time.

- EP 0 914 976 A1 cited in the international search report as follows: Category "A" for claims 1, 2, 5, 6 & 9, as a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

- DE 44 07 740 A1 cited in the corresponding German application examination. This patent describes a motor vehicle air spring arranged between a vehicle body and a suspension link, and connected to the suspension link with a joint rod. No translation is available at this time.

Favorable action on the merits of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant,

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Enclosed: PTO-1449 Form

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BY: Amy J. Sauter DATE: July 27, 2001